

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments**

Pursuant to section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 99-020. **Applicant:** National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892. **Instrument:** Electron Microscope, Model JEM-1010. **Manufacturer:** JEOL Ltd., Japan. **Intended Use:** The instrument is intended to be used for ultrastructural analyses of animal tissues using electron microscopy preparative techniques such as fixation, embedding and ultrathin sectioning and immunogold and other immunocytochemical techniques to localize cellular components and antigens and computerized imaging quantitation. In addition, the instrument will be used for training postdoctoral fellows and to some extent pre-IRTAs and students. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* August 25, 1999.

Docket Number: 99-021. **Applicant:** University of Kentucky, 177 Anderson Hall, Lexington, KY 40506-0046. **Instrument:** Electron Microscope, Model JEM-2010F. **Manufacturer:** JEOL Ltd., Japan. **Intended Use:** The instrument is intended to be used in the study of the structure and chemistry of a wide variety of materials in the solid state (e.g., polymers, ceramics, metals, superconductors, carbon nanotubes) with emphasis on the structure of material defects. Experiments will include: (1) Quantification of interfacial segregation in oxide ceramics and correlation of segregation with interface crystallography, (2) high-resolution imaging of carbon nanotubes, and (3) phase identification of catalysts. In

addition, the instrument will be used to train graduate students in the theory of electron microscopy in the courses MSE 858 Material Characterization Techniques and MSE 666 Diffraction Methods in Materials Science.

Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: August 25, 1999.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 99-24074 Filed 9-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Overseas Trade Missions**

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce invites U.S. companies to participate in the following overseas trade missions to be held between September 1999 and April 2000. For a more complete description of the trade mission, obtain a copy of the mission statement from the Project Officer indicated below. The recruitment and selection of private sector participants for these missions will be conducted according to the Statement of Policy Governing Department of Commerce Overseas Trade Missions announced by Secretary Daley on March 3, 1997.

Coal Trade Mission, Los Angeles Export Terminal, Los Angeles, CA, Comision Federal de Electricidad, Mexico City, Mexico, Petacalco Power Plant, Lazaro Cardenas, Mexico, September 28-October 2, 1999, Recruitment closes September 17, 1999, For further information contact: Helen Burroughs, U.S. Department of Commerce, Tel: 202-482-4931, Fax: 202-482-0170 or 202-482-5361.

Agricultural Trade Mission—PERU, November 29-December 3, 1999, Recruitment closes November 10, 1999, For further information contact: U.S. Department of Commerce, Eduardo Torres, Tel: 559-325-1619, Fax: 559-325-1647 or Dale Wright, Tel: 916-498-5155, Fax: 916-498-5923.

Pet Products Trade Mission, Mexico City and Guadalajara, Mexico, December 1-7, 1999, Recruitment closes November 15, 1999, For further information contact: Edward Kimmel, U.S. Department of Commerce, Tel: 202-482-3640, Fax: 202-482-3422. **Healthcare Technologies Matchmaker, Milan, Italy and Madrid, Spain,**

February 28-March 3, 2000, Recruitment closes January 7, 2000, For further information contact: Yvonne Jackson, U.S. Department of Commerce, Tel: 202-482-2675, Fax: 202-482-0178.

Medical and Dental Devices, Medical Device Components, and Laboratory Instruments, Trade Mission to China, March 19-28, 2000, Recruitment closes February 15, 2000, For further information contact: Lauren Saadat, U.S. Department of Commerce, Tel: 202-482-4431, Fax: 202-482-0975. **Used Equipment Trade Mission, Peru and Ecuador, April 10-15, 2000, Recruitment closes March 1, 2000, For further information John Bodson, U.S. Department Commerce, Tel: 202-482-0601, Fax: 202-482-0304. For further information contact:** Reginald Beckham, U.S. Department of Commerce, Tel: 202-482-5478, Fax: 202-482-1999.

Dated: September 8, 1999.

Tom Nisbet,

Director, Promotion Planning and Support Division, Office of Export Promotion Coordination.

[FR Doc. 99-23979 Filed 9-14-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Institute of Standards and Technology**

[Docket No. 970725180-9196-03]

RIN No. 0693-ZA16

Request for Comments on the Finalist (Round 2) Candidate Algorithms for the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: A process to develop a Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) for an Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) specifying an Advanced Encryption Algorithm (AEA) has been initiated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In the Fall of 1998, NIST announced fifteen publicly submitted algorithms as candidates for the AES, and invites public review, comment, and analysis in order to narrow the field of candidates to (approximately) five or fewer finalists. During the Round 1 technical evaluation period, these fifteen candidates were subjected to extensive analysis and testing by the cryptographic community.